

FORT COMMONWEALTH

RT, KENTUCKY, MARCH 22, 1859.

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Another Corruption Case Exposed!

REPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC PRINTING!

SYSTEMATIC SWINDLING!

HOW THE PUBLIC TREASURY IS ROBBED!

The Government Defrauded by two United States Officials!

SEAMAN AND WENDELL CONVICTED! &c., &c., &c.

The Select Committee, appointed to investigate the account of the late Superintendent of Public Printing,

REPORT

The resolution creating the Committee was adopted by the House of Representatives on the 23d day of December last, but the Committee was not formed until the 17th day of January. On the 28th day of January the Committee organized, and in pursuance of a resolution of the House appointed Theodore F. Andrews, their clerk and stenographer.

Your Committee began the examination by calling the present Superintendent Geo. W. Bowman, before them, in order to ascertain how the office of Superintendent is organized. It is proper to state that the office of Superintendent was created by the act of August 16, 1852. The first Superintendent died within a year after his appointment, and Mr. Seaman, whose accounts your committee were directed to investigate, was appointed in the fall of 1853. He was reappointed in December, 1855, and continued his office until December, 1857. He was succeeded by the present Superintendent.

The Committee have confined their examination as nearly as possible to the period of Mr. Seaman's Superintendency, that is, from December, 1853, to December, 1857.

Much irrelevant testimony has been taken by reason of the nature of the examination, and from the necessity imposed upon the Committee to resort to every expedient to draw facts from reluctant witnesses.

While the entire record is presented for the consideration of the House, the Committee then report upon such facts only as have been established by direct and competent testimony.

Your Committee have given to the subject entrusted to them as thorough an examination as their limited time allowed, and they believe that as many material facts have been developed as was possible under the peculiar and embarrassing circumstances under which they have acted. They deem it proper here to state that, both with reference to the attendance of witnesses summoned, (two of whom they felt obliged to report, specially to the House for contumacy,) and with reference to the extreme difficulty experienced in obtaining from some of the witnesses the disclosure of facts, evidently within their knowledge, the investigation has been attended with difficulties of no ordinary character; and that owing to these difficulties, many material matters are suggested in the evidence, which it has not been in the power of the Committee fully to disclose.

It has been found that the books of the late Superintendent have been kept in a manner so loose and negligent, as to make it almost impossible to ascertain with any proper correctness, the condition of the accounts between the office and the Government.

The testimony of Dr. Quail shows that it can not be ascertained from these books, within some hundreds of reams, how much paper was received, nor how much was delivered to the Public Printer; and that neither these accounts, nor the account of paper on hand, can be balanced.

Large invoices of paper were received without any inspection; and sometimes by an irresponsible party in the employ of the Public Printer. A laborer, or watchman, in Mr. Wendell's office appears to have had, to a very great extent, the charge of the delivery of the paper to the Public Printer. His memoranda was kept on loose slips of paper, afterwards sent to the clerk, whose duty it was to superintend this matter. From these slips the official receipts were made up monthly; but as in the case of the other accounts, the official receipts and the slips do not agree. These slips have been collected and posted into a book for reference, by the present Superintendent. Some paper described in them is not covered by any official receipt.

In further illustration of the manner in which the books were kept, your Committee would refer to the account for paper furnished to the binders for waste leaves. Prior to the first of April, 1856, paper for those leaves was furnished by Superintendent on Public Binding. The binders charged the same to the Senate and House, and it was paid for at stipulated prices out of the contingent fund of the two Houses. It then became the duty of the binders to pay back the amount so collected to the Superintendent of Public Printing, to close his account for the paper supplied. The accounts kept by the Superintendent with the Public Binders, appeared to have been closed by double red lines drawn underneath them. Some instances occur of lateral lines drawn across the page below, with the words "carried forward," in which a reference to the pages to which such accounts are severally professedly carried, shows no balance really carried forward, and these accounts, therefore, show no balances due to the Government.

Upon an investigation, the present Superintendent, George W. Bowman, ascertained these facts that accounts purporting to be closed, had not been in fact closed, and that large quantities of paper furnished to the binders, prior to his appointment had not been paid for. These accounts thus standing were made out and sent to the binders for payment. The largest amount, \$1,170 77, was due from Mr. Arnold, of Philadelphia. When spoken to on the subject, he said the account had been settled by way of a loan to Mr. Seaman, that he had refused to make the loan until Mr. Seaman promised to arrange it in the settlement of his waste leaf account. This however, was not done, and Mr. Arnold paid the amount to Mr. Bowman. The same was the case in another bill of less amount. Notwithstanding the fact that \$2,791 96 have been collected from various binders on the account referred to since the appointment of the present Superintendent, there is still a considerable discrepancy between the quantity of paper required for waste leaves and the amount which has been settled for by the binders.

No account was kept between the Government and the Superintendent to show the amount of money received for paper supplied to the binders. The only memorandum of any such money is found in connection with the account of paper received from Sylvester S. Megargee. It appears that Mr. Seaman assumed the payment of \$111,424 \$1 to Mr. Megargee, for 1,724 reams, 45 lbs. paper on the 14th of April, 1856. The entry shows that the same was to be paid out of money collected for waste leaves; and it appears to have been intended to convey the idea that 1,724 reams of paper thus settled for, covered the whole amount used by the binders up to the 1st of April, 1856, which was not the case. In this instance the books were well calculated to induce the belief that the accounts were closed, and thus to deceive; while the testimony shows that Mr. Seaman knew that money was due on these accounts, and that long after that date his clerk, Mr. Jewett, tried to collect the same. The books also disclose payments to the binders for the House for volumes which were not credited either in the Superintendent's book or at the folding room. Various small items of this character appear, and there is no way to explain them. In this particular, great liberties undoubtedly were taken by the parties doing the public work. The number of volumes ordered were not always bound, and in some cases, not printed. The evidence of these facts in regard to the binding is positive and direct, in regard to the printing is almost as conclusive. The accounts at the House folding room were short at the time Mr. Seaman went out of office 2,939 volumes, but the deliveries since that time have reduced the discrepancy between the number ordered by the House, and the number delivered at the folding room to about 2,500 volumes. The loose manner in which these accounts have been kept, has prevented the Committee from ascertaining whether these volumes were ever bound by the public binders; but it appears that certificates for the whole number, ordered by Congress have uniformly been issued, and in a few instances those certificates embrace more vol-

umes than were ordered to be printed and bound.

In the examination of the accounts for engraving and lithographing, your committee found that the books of various parties did not correspond with the amounts of the certificates issued and charged to them. In one instance this difference amounted to about \$10,000, and in another to \$1,736 76. In one or two instances the books of engravers and lithographers were balanced by fictitious entries; but in those cases, the amounts of money credited as received from Government did not correspond with the certificates charged to the parties. In fact, there appears to have been a singular fatality about the books and accounts connected with these matters, and none of them were entirely satisfactory.

Your Committee ascertained that when the engraving and lithographing were contracted for during the session of Congress, it was done generally under the direction of the Committee, or at prices fixed by them. When the Committee did not direct the employment of particular parties, they instructed the Superintendent to employ parties to do the work at the specified scale of prices, generally; but in some instances left it to his discretion. The Chairman of the Committee on Engraving testifies that Mr. Seaman had recommended the employment of certain engravers and lithographers on account of their mechanical skill, or their ability to execute the work, and that the Committee relied upon his judgment in these matters.

The Chairman of the Engraving Committee in the 34th Congress testifies that Mr. Seaman had recommended for employment P. S. Duval & Co., John Capin, Van Ingen & Snyder, and Lindam & Co., of Philadelphia; A. Hern & Co., of Baltimore, and Sarony, Majors & Knapp, of New York. In the examination, your committee found that all these parties had been employed on Engraving and Lithographing for the Government, and that all of them had paid commissions to agents, in some manner connected with their business; and they say that the payments thus made had more or less connection with the contracts for the work. Some of these parties state that they found that their old agents could be of no service to them, and that they got the impression here in Washington that their interests would be promoted by the employment of other parties, and that upon the employment of the persons indicated, they got work.

Your Committee find that there was a very general belief in the trade that it was necessary for them to pay for their contracts in some way, and that the practice of paying was as general as the belief. Payment was made in different ways: in some instances in the way of loans, and in other cases a per centage was paid to agents for attending to the receipt and delivery of the work in Washington. The necessity for which services existed more in imagination than in reality, as the plates were always sent direct to the Superintendent, and by him were delivered to the printers, who arranged or collected them with the sheets. In other cases the per centage was paid direct to the Superintendent. The engravers and lithographers testify, with one or two exceptions, that they could afford to pay the per centage, and that they made provision in their bids for the allowance which they were compelled to make the agents. This fact is established by a comparison of the prices paid under the late Superintendent, and those paid by Mr. Bowman, the present Superintendent.

There is nearly 50 per cent. difference in favor of the present prices. This is the testimony of Mr. Towers, chief clerk in the office. Mr. Graham testified that he would have done some of the work at 25 per cent., or one fourth of the price paid under Mr. Seaman; and a reduction nearly as great as this, has actually been made in the cost of the work done on the coast survey report of 1857. The charts done under contract with Mr. Seaman on that report for 1856, cost \$157 50 each while the same kind of charts, somewhat larger in their average size, for the report of 1857, were contracted for, to have been done under Mr. Bowman for \$49 91 each.

One or two lithographers say that the prices were about the same that they received from publishers, but it appears that those parties did not object to loaning money to the late Superintendent, which loans they have not requested him to return.

By reference to the testimony of Messrs. Roberts & Eichell, it will be seen that they agreed to divide the net profits on the work to be done on the Mechanical Report of the Patent Office. The contract was given at \$30 per page, of which sum they estimated \$14 per page as their net profits. Out of this sum, Roberts agreed to pay Eichell 25 per cent. for securing the work.

The per centage paid to Agents was from 5 to 20 per cent. upon the contracts. In some instances the money was loaned to Mr. Seaman, and no security or vouchers were taken for it. In the case of Sarony, Majors & Knapp, his name did not appear on the books.

The loans had been charged to one of the parties, "for H. G. S.," but Mr. Majors says that he added the full name of H. G. Seaman, after he had been subpoenaed. To a question put on that subject the witness answered that the entry was thus made to avoid exposing Mr. Seaman in the summer of 1856. The party who made this loan was subpoenaed to testify before your Committee. Upon the receipt of subpoena he called upon Mr. Seaman for the amount of the loan, and an arrangement was made, by which the sum was returned in certified check. The party in this particular instance testified that he had not called upon Seaman before that time for the money, and that he had called after he had been subpoenaed in order that he might be able to testify that Mr. Seaman did not owe him anything.

In another instance the last sum in a loan of \$3,550, was made four years since, and no demand has been made upon Mr. Seaman for it, or any portion of it, and it remains unpaid.

Your Committee found in another case that \$1,500 had been paid to Mr. Seaman; that a note taken for it had been renewed from time to time; that the amount was finally paid by the firm and charged to the account of printing expenses; and that the persons making the loan did not, when they made it, expect it to be repaid. This same house paid an additional sum to Mr. Seaman of \$750, which your Committee find was in consideration of contracts given it.

Your Committee find that the various sums paid to the agents employed under different pretences, were paid under the impression that their business interests would be benefitted thereby, and that it was necessary that those payments should be made in order to secure Government contracts. They further find from the testimony, that engravers and lithographers who had previously had work from the Government, did not succeed in getting it under Mr. Seaman's Superintendency, until they employed particular agents. The particular agents were afterwards employed by all the successful houses.

One of the most successful houses, Sarony, Majors & Knapp, was induced to make, and did make, a business arrangement with Mr. Wendell; and they opened a branch of their New York house in this city, in which Mr. Wendell was interested. It is in evidence that the establishment of this branch made a material difference in the quantity of work given to houses outside of this city; but the parties say that it was not successful, and therefore it was closed. It does not appear that this branch was closed until the recent large orders were nearly or entirely completed.

Your Committee further find that a contract was given to parties upon the express condition that they would pay a per centage on the contract to the Superintendent himself, and in this particular case the books of the firm, agreeing to make the payment, show that the money, amounting to \$2,250, was paid to the Superintendent and charged to the account of printing expenses. The evidence shows also that there was one contract made for the payment of 20 per cent. to Mr. Seaman, but your Committee have been unable to ascertain whether the amount was ever actually paid over according to the agreement.

Your Committee further find that the papers received from contractors, was inferior to the sample, in some cases varying over 3 cents on the pound; and that little or none of such inferior paper was returned by the Superintendent.

It appears from the testimony, that very considerable quantities of paper, which had at different times been rejected by the clerk having charge of the paper department, was afterwards received. In one particular instance, where a large quantity of paper had accumulated in the hands of the contractor, the contractor came on to Washington and succeeded in getting his paper received.

It appears that this was done by an agreement

to pay a commissioner for the receipt of his paper. Mr. Megargee, the contractor in this case, compelled one of the manufacturers to make a reduction of about 24 cents per ream on the paper supplied, which deduction amounted to \$1,200.

In the account rendered to the manufacturer the deduction is charged as the amount paid on paper which was rejected, but which paper upon said payment having been made, was received by the Government. This payment is clearly established by the testimony of Mr. Rice, who paid the same, and by the original accounts rendered Messrs. Rice, Kendall & Co. by the house of Megargee & Brothers. That the money was charged in the accounts as paid for that purpose, and paid by Messrs. Rice, Kendall & Co., there is no doubt; but your Committee have not had time to trace it into the hands of any particular persons, and they cannot say that Mr. Seaman received the money. When the difficulty about the receipt of this paper took place, Mr. Seaman refused to interfere, thus leaving the contractor in the hands of his clerk. The law under which the Government paper is contracted for, is, in the opinion of your Committee, very imperfect. While it directs that the bids shall be opened in the presence of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, it leaves the selection of the paper entirely to the judgment of the superintendent. Opening the bids in the presence of the officers referred to, is an idle formality, as the superintendent has the right to select any paper which, in his opinion, most nearly approximates to the paper advertised for. Under this provision, your Committee find that the superintendent rejected paper which was offered for 13 cents per pound, because it was too well finished, while he accepted the bid of another party at 13.9-100 cents per pound for inferior paper. This contract was given to one individual member of the firm of Megargee & Brothers, to which Mr. Seaman is now so largely indebted for borrowed money.

The mode of contracting for paper upon samples furnished by the bidders is wrong. The grade of paper should be established, and the bidder should be required to bid to one sample, in which case there would be less favoritism. This plan has been adopted by the present Superintendent with great advantage.

In connection with the paper contracts, your Committee has also ascertained, that it became necessary for the parties supplying the Government with paper, to employ particular agents in the city of Washington, to receive their paper, and thus those particular agents were employed in all instances, which your Committee had been enabled to examine. Your Committee farther find that one of these particular agents for the receipt of paper had become objectionable to one or more of the parties contracting, and that they refused to continue him in that business. When an arrangement was made between one of the contractors and Mr. Seaman for the employment of Mr. Wendell, who afterwards became the special agent for the contractors; that Mr. Wendell employed a clerk or agent to do the work for the first year (1856) at a salary of \$1,000, and for the second year (1857) at a salary of \$1,200, while Mr. Wendell received from the paper contractors for his influence, without doing any work whatever, 3 1/2 per cent. commission on about that amount, which for the two years specified amounted in the aggregate to about \$12,000.

Your Committee also find that Mr. Seaman was in the habit of borrowing money from the paper contractors, as well as engravers and lithographers, and that large sums still remain unpaid. To one firm there appears to be due \$12,281 31, and to an individual member of that firm, nearly \$8,000. No security was ever taken for these loans, and in most cases, no notes whatever were given, and the business partner of the firm loaning this large amount stated to your Committee that they had made no demand for the money, did not expect to receive it, and would not have made the loan had it not been for the official position that Mr. Seaman occupied. In other cases, notes were given or discounted by the contractors, which were afterwards paid, or taken up, in part or whole, by Mr. Seaman.

Your Committee have found in connection with the paper contracts, that Mr. Seaman made a contract with one party for \$7,000 per year, upon the payment of which sum to Mr. Seaman, that party was to have a contract for all the paper he could supply. In the following December, the contract for the 45 lbs. paper was awarded to that party, but the agreement to pay \$7,000 a year was not carried out, and no further contracts were awarded to that manufactory, by reason of the refusal of the senior party interested in furnishing the paper, finally to execute it.

In another instance, a contract was made for fifty-two pounds paper, with the express understanding that one cent per pound was to be deducted out of the amount, to be paid for the contract to parties in Washington; but your Committee did not find that this amount was to be paid directly to Mr. Seaman, but to one of the parties who had been acting as special agent for the paper contractors. In a final settlement of that account between the contractor and the commission merchant, the contractor refused to allow the amount (\$4,391 92) to be deducted from his account, giving as a reason for refusing, that he had already discharged the obligation in another way. In this instance, the deduction of one cent on every pound of paper was regularly entered on the books of the commission house as "per contract," and one of the firm distinctly swears that this sum was to be paid to one of these mysterious agents, but that the amount was finally credited to the manufacturer, because he alleged that it had been settled in a different way. Your Committee were unable to follow this matter out, owing to the dangerous illness in the family of a witness, who otherwise would have been before them. The contractor himself has since deceased.

Your Committee are unanimously of the opinion, from the evidence, that a combination existed for the purpose of compelling the paper contractors, and the lithographers, and engravers, to pay in some way either in the character of loans, or commissions, or directly in money, for the contracts awarded to them.

One of the most remarkable features in this case, is the fact, that the parties having business relations with the Government through the Superintendent's office, whom your Committee examined, found it necessary or convenient to employ the same parties. In many instances these contractors had no previous acquaintance with the agents employed; yet they testify that no special contracts were made for the services; that no regular per centage was agreed upon between them, and that their business relation was conducted in the most careless manner. The testimony in the case, forces your Committee to the conclusion that some intimate and confidential relations did exist between Mr. Seaman and the principal parties involved, and that they were not ignorant of the action and interests of each other. It is directly in testimony that one of the paper contractors told Mr. Seaman that he would no longer employ a party, who had up to that time, acted as an agent for the receipt for the paper, and further it appears that the Superintendent then directed a gentleman who spoke to him on behalf of his brother, to send him to Mr. Wendell to talk about the matter. The gentleman's brother was soon after employed by Mr. Wendell to do the work of an agent at \$1,000 per annum. This person did the work, received the paper, and saw that it was regularly delivered to the Superintendent and his clerk. For these services Mr. Wendell paid him \$1,000, while Mr. Wendell was recognized as the agent in fact, for which he received large per centage. This testimony betrays the important fact, that the employment of an agent for this duty, was a matter of arrangement between the contractor and the Superintendent, and that the agent thus employed did not perform the little work to be done, but with the knowledge and consent of the contractors and the Superintendent, he employed another person at a small compensation to do it. Independent of any criminal interests, this conduct and the relations thus established, were undoubtedly wrong. Mr. Seaman was the officer of the Government, whose duty it was to inspect, and if necessary to reject the papers furnished. While Mr. Wendell was the public printer who used the paper, who knew the quality of the article, and who was the only person likely to complain of its quality. The Superintendent was a large and constant borrower from the contractors, and thus far lost his independence: while the public printer became the hired agent of the contractors, and positively interested in the receipts of this paper, no matter how indifferent its quality.

Your Committee find that Mr. Seaman received from the engravers, lithographers and paper contractors, examined during the investigation, in the way of loans, chiefly, but a por-

tion in money direct, about the gross sum of \$30,000.

Your Committee find, as heretofore stated, that Mr. Wendell received from the paper contractors, about \$12,000. The evidence also shows, that he received from engravers and lithographers, during Mr. Seaman's superintendency, about \$27,000, making the gross sum paid to him, as far as ascertained, about \$39,000.

In addition to these sums, there are two payments unexplained. The sum of \$4,391 92, being the one cent a pound which was contracted to be paid, and was paid to some one or arranged in some way, and the sum of \$1,201 which was deducted from the accounts of Messrs. Rice, Kendall & Co., by Mr. Megargee.

(Signed,) GEORGE TAYLOR,
JOHN COVODE,
WILLIAM E. NIBLACK,
J. MORRISON HARRIS,
LUCIUS L. GARTRELL.

The Last Hours of Postmaster General Brown.

We find in the Washington Union, of Sunday, a more extended account of the closing scenes in the life of the late Postmaster General than we have elsewhere seen:

On Monday, the 28th of February, Gov. Brown returned home from his department pale and exhausted, and, after dining, sought his room, complaining of chilliness and indisposition. After a severe chill he seemed totally unwell; but Mrs. B. attributed his weakness to over-fatigue, not dreaming how nearly exhausted were the springs of life. On Tuesday morning a physician was called in, who declared his disease to be pneumonia, and for two days he continued violently ill, suffering great distress from difficulty in breathing. On Friday his malady took one of those capricious turns upon which the sanguine are so apt to found hope, and which tempt the sufferer, from feeling relief, to imagine that a restoration to health is certain. Considering his disease conquered, his family admitted his assistant, (Mr. Horatio King,) who conversed freely upon this business of the department; and on the same day the defeat of the Postoffice appropriation bill was by accident revealed to him. On the evening when his beloved family thought him out of all danger, and were almost gay in the anticipation, they were suddenly informed of the necessity of apprising their relatives of his danger, as all hope of recovery was at an end.

His devoted wife was prepared for a speedy recovery, but not at all for death; and steadily refusing to admit despair into her heart throughout five long days and nights with a fortitude and strength that seemed superhuman, she sat in speechless anguish by his side, his ministering angel, his guardian spirit, his earthly sustainer and support. During the severest periods of his disorder, he was delicious, and it was remarkable to observe, from the incoherent words he uttered, how entirely the elevated principles of the man retained their predominance. There was constant expressions of trust in God, and prayers for resignation to bear it. Through all his intense sufferings he never murmured or expressed the slightest impatience of its long continuance, but in moments of unusual anguish, would cast his eyes upward with the words, "Oh! my blessed Lord."

During the last two days and nights, he rambled on incoherently—though at intervals, perfectly sensible. His low ejaculations were so indistinct between the distressing gasps for breath that only a word here and there was intelligible. At one moment, turning his eyes, fraught with a whole soul's tenderness, upon his agonizing wife, he said: My—dear—wife,—we—will go back—Tennessee,—Melrose, (the name of his country seat, near Nashville;) then, as his mind wandered off she was only able to catch isolated words, such as postage—sustain itself—ah!—the Democracy—will have a—hard battle.

To an elderly lady, who had specially endeared herself to him by her attention during his illness, he said, placing his hand upon her head, with touching solemnity, "God bless you," and soon after he grasped the hand of "Uncle Ben," who had been for forty years his faithful body servant, and expressed, in isolated words, the regret he felt at requiring such fatiguing attendance. On the night before his death, there was in all that mournful household no sight so touching as that little group of dark faces, huddled together in the room adjoining the chamber of death, with chairs drawn close to the door, the tears falling like rain, as they listened to the weakened respiration of their idolized master.

On the evening referred to, being told by Mrs. B. that the President was in the room, he seemed to rally, and as Mr. B. took his hand, said, in a clear and distinct manner, "Mr. Buchanan, I have endeavored to discharge my duty faithfully—to do what I thought best for the good of the country." In a voice broken with emotion, the President replied, "You have done more than your duty;" and to the closing words of the dying man—broken by gasps for utterance—"I thank—you—for—your—kindness—to me—and—mine"—the President added, "every interview, Governor Brown, has increased my attachment for you."

About midnight he joined fervently in a prayer offered up by Dr. Granberry, a Methodist clergyman of our city. At the close of this, he turned a long, lingering gaze of wistful tenderness upon the face he loved best on earth, and said, in a voice clearly intelligible to all around, "My—dear wife we shall meet again when the fashion of this world passeth away." From this hour he sank slowly but surely, and it is consolatory to think that his last moments were free from acute suffering—the bodily energies waning gently like the twilight, and the mind though clear, partaking of that growing languor which had crept over the frame with which it was associated.

From this time his devoted wife seemed to absorb all his thoughts. He was patient and thankful for the smallest attention, abounding in tender anxiety for her, following her slightest movement with his eyes, with that anxious wistful appealing look which seemed to say: "I can no longer trust myself to speak." After the power of speech had left him, he extended his arms, clasping her to his heart with a fervor which even the approach of death could not diminish. And so he died. On Tuesday morning at twenty minutes past nine o'clock, clasping her hand and gazing into her eyes with that earnest look which even death could not alter, his spirit burst its bonds and rode on triumphant wings to find, we believe, happiness in the bosom of its God.

The Benecia Boy, John C. Heenan, returned to New York on the 6th of this month, from rather an unprofitable tour through the West and South. Having offered repeatedly to fight Morrissey or any other man in America, he may be considered the American "Champion." But Heenan is not content with the honors of this continent, and has forwarded a challenge to England. He offers to fight the best man in England, whatever the name of that best man may be, for any reasonable sum, placing the lowest amount to accommodate gentlemen of light pockets, at \$2,500. John Bull's short-haired bruisers will have to look well to their laurels, or they will be borne off by Heenan. This is a fast age.

EXTRAORDINARY EFFECT OF A METEOR.—On the 18th ult., about 6 P. M., while some gentlemen were driving in an open car in the neighborhood of Binghamstown, Errie, county Mayo, they were overtaken by a storm of hail so severe as to exceed anything of a similar nature ever witnessed by any of the party before. It continued for about ten or fifteen minutes, and was succeeded by darkness the most profound. At this moment a ball of fire about the size of an orange and of a dark color, emitting some sparks, passed rather slowly between two of the party, on the off side of the car, and immediately exploded. All were instantaneously struck blind by the intense brilliancy of the light, and it was some time before they recovered sufficiently to continue on the road. A feeling of numbness and prostration was experienced more or less by each individual, which continued a long time, and the driver was quite unable to hold the reins or see where he was going. A slight hissing sound accompanied this evolution of light, and appeared to proceed from the passage of the meteor through the air. A loud clap of thunder followed, but at a long interval.—*Dublin paper.*

The milk that exudes from the smutch, when a limb or leaf is broken off, makes the best indelible ink that can be used. In a short time it becomes a jet black, and can never be washed out.

THE VIRGINIA ELECTION.—The canvass has opened with considerable spirit, and warm times may be expected before the day of election. Goggin, the Opposition candidate, has already met Letcher, the grand front of the Democracy, and given him an over-hauling that will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it. Both are preparing to take the stump in favor of Goggin, and will do good service during the campaign. Whether they will be successful or not, the Opposition are determined to make a good fight, and we bid them "God speed in their cause." The *Richmond Whig*, referring to the latest tidings from the canvass, says:

"We learn that the discussion in Staunton on Thursday, between Goggin and Letcher, was attended by an immense throng of the sovereigns of Augusta. Goggin led off in a speech of an hour and a quarter, and was followed by Letcher in a speech of the same length—each having half an hour afterwards. Our informant states that Goggin 'completely demolished' poor Letcher, and gave the most intense satisfaction to his friends, while hundreds of Democrats were charmed by the frank, courteous, and gentlemanly bearing of our noble and gallant standard-bearer. We guess poor Letcher will see many a sight before this canvass is over."

MOUNT VERNON FUND.—Miss Pamela Cunningham, the Regent of the Mount Vernon Association, paid, on the 22d of February, 1859, the installment due on the 22d of February 1860, thus saving a large amount of interest money; the amount of principal of purchase money paid to this time is \$116,606, and also interest to this date. The Treasurer has now in his hands upwards of \$30,000, to apply to the next installment of \$41,666, and interest.

MR. THURSTON, THE BALLOONIST.—His Watch. It is a singular fact that the watch which was carried by Mr. Thurston, the unfortunate balloonist, when he fell from the balloon, near Adrian, Michigan, on the 16th of September, was not broken by the fall of more than a half a mile to the earth. Both the crystal and the works were uninjured. It continued to go until run down—twenty-four hours after.

THE BURLINGTON HAWKEYE warns land purchasers against the city of Lawrence, Des Moines county, Iowa. It is situated in township 74 range 1, west, being nearly opposite Oquawka, at low water; it is two miles from the Mississippi; at other times it is submerged. Its lots are worth twenty one cents each, and its only inhabitants are polliwogs and cat fish.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT has received intimation of the death of the oldest soldier in the army. He was one of the most extraordinary persons in the service, and after a term of 45 years had only reached the rank of Sergeant.—His remains were interred with all the honors of war at Fort Scott, Ark., where he did his last duty.

MONUMENT TO COL. CRITTENDEN.—Two Americans, one of them from Richmond, Va., while in Cuba a few weeks since, visited the spot where Lieut. Crittenden, of the Lopez expedition, was shot, and erected a marble monument to his memory.

STATE FAIR OF ILLINOIS.—The next State Fair of Illinois will be held at Freeport, commencing on Monday, the 5th of September next, and ending on Friday the 9th. The amount set apart for the premium list is \$15,000.

A. S. Dabney, Esq., of Trigg, has been appointed cashier of the branch of the Southern Bank of Kentucky at Hickman in place of W. Owen, Jr., resigned.

THE last number of the *Cynthiana Age* contains the valedictory of F. L. McChesney, who retires from the paper for the reason that the patronage extended him during the past year has been wholly inadequate to his support. Hear him:

"I have carried on the *Age* at great personal loss—I have at times been editor, pressman and compositor, working night and day, endeavoring in good faith to build up a Democratic paper in this place. These efforts, I regret to say, have not been generally seconded by the Democracy, and I am consequently compelled to seek a livelihood in some other place or some other avocation."

WHY HE DIDN'T KISS HER.—In a new book called "Heart Pictures," written, we believe, by a gentleman of Tennessee, there occurs a description of a lonely lady, the author took with a pleasant lady, the temptation that followed, and the heroic self-denial practiced on the occasion. The following brief paragraph tells the whole story:

From Camden to Lancaster, a distance of thirty eight miles, I traveled alone with Mrs. Greaves. She was a sweet and interesting woman, so sweet and interesting that fastidious as I am on that subject, I believe I would have been willing to have kissed her. I had however, several reasons for not perpetrating this act. 1. I am such a good husband I wouldn't even be guilty of the appearance of disloyalty to my sweet wife. 2. I was afraid the driver would see me and tell Greaves. 3. I didn't think Mrs. G. would let me.

FISH EATING AND FECUNDITY.—A letter to the *Journal of Commerce* says:

Every house in Japan seemed to be overrun with children, in some of which I counted ten or a dozen and all of about the same size! The birds in a nest, the chickens in a coop, the frogs in a pond, are not more compact and crowded than these human beehives seem to be, and I may add, or more happy. The average number of the inmates of each house in Japan is estimated at between thirty and forty! They eat but little meat except fish, which abound in these waters, both in the bays and in the sea, and are easily procured, as well as fine. A gentleman told me that he believed, from his most careful observation, not above one in fifty of the people ever eat any other animal food.

VIOLENT STORM OF WIND AND RAIN.—On yesterday evening our city and neighborhood was visited with a violent wind, accompanied with hail and rain, doing considerable damage. The table end of the Cotton Factory was blown in, and a ware-house in Aberdeen, on Front street, known as the Gibley property, was almost torn to pieces, falling on a small kitchen belonging to Mr. Payne, and totally demolishing it. We have no doubt we shall hear of much destruction of property.

A gentleman from Minerva, informs us this morning, that the storm extended in that neighborhood, doing much damage to timber, fences, &c., and killing a black man belonging to Mr. Evans.—*Mayville Eagle*, March 12th.

COOL—VERY.—The Democratic candidates have handed in to the clerk of the Board of Aldermen a paper containing the names of the officers of election whom they wish appointed. They had not examined the city charter sufficiently to understand that there is but one voting place in each ward at city elections, and consequently they asked for more officers than were to be appointed. The joke, however, is, that they asked that three of the four officers in each precinct should be Democrats. Appreciating the magnanimous manner in which Democrats in power usually divide out offices, the Presidents of the two Boards, to whom the appointing power is confided, will doubtless concede their request.—*Lou. Jour.*

AFFRAY AT WARSAW.—*Man Killed*.—We learn from Mr. Hamlin, of the Jacob Strader, that a difficulty occurred night before last at Warsaw between Thomas M. Lillard, son of Capt. James Lillard, and James Hendren, in which the latter was shot. He died yesterday afternoon. The men were under the influence of liquor.—*Lou. Jour.*

A PENITENTIARY BIRD.—The Jailer yesterday received a telegram from the sheriff of Smithland, desiring him to retain in custody for requisition a man named Phillips alias Stewart, whom officers Rose and Garrett arrested on Howard's Row a short time since. He is a convicted counterfeiter, and had broken out of the penitentiary at Frankfort, Kentucky.—*Memphis Appeal*.

Items by Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, March 16. The Union of this morning, in an authoritative article on our Mexican and Central American relations, says there is not the least reason to believe, from anything yet transpired, that either the French or British Governments meditate any interference in the political concerns of Mexico, and it is known that Capt. Turner, the American commanding officer, has entered into an arrangement with the French and British commanders, that the naval officers of the three nations shall land together, should such action be necessary to afford protection to their respective citizens.

It appears further that our Government does not take the ground that the Monroe doctrine precludes any European nation from going into a war with Mexico, whenever cause might exist. It maintains and means to take care that the Spanish American States shall not again be reduced to European dominion, but does not maintain that those States may commit just such wrongs as they please against European powers without being responsible to those powers for their tortious acts.

Spain has declared that it has not the remotest idea of attempting to resubjugate Mexico.

The United States has no objection to one canal or twenty in Central America. This is no question under the Monroe doctrine. What they mean to make good is that the contracts already made and existing with their citizens shall not be violated, and that such canals when made shall be equally free and open to all commercial nations, and shall not be controlled by any one power, especially any European power.

Our Government is officially assured that England is not pursuing a tortious or dishonest course in Nicaragua. The British Government professes fairness, and ours is not at liberty to doubt their honor. Of the treaties they meditate with the Government of Nicaragua—one for the regulation of the transit route and another for the abandonment of the Mosquito protectorate—the general principles have been submitted to the Government of the United States and approved by it.

A complaint has been lodged at the State Department against the British Consul at Galveston. In November, American ship Thomas Watson, of N. Y., cleared with a cargo of cotton for Liverpool. The Consul refused to certify to the bill of health given by the collector of that port. In consequence, the vessel was detained 25 days, and narrowly escaped shipwreck. The allegation is that the Consul was actuated by a feeling of petty malice and revenge, owing to the attachment of the British schooner Commerce by the owners of the Watson, for damage done in port during a norther, by the former which vessel was consigned to the British Consul. The owners of the Watson have preferred a claim of ten thousand dollars against the British Government.

It is ascertained that the Postoffice Department will at the end of the present fiscal year, 30th June, be four and a half million dollars in arrears.

It was decided unanimously that an extra session of Congress is necessary, but the time of its meeting was not fixed upon. That question will be decided in a day or two, and it is believed that Congress will be called to meet about the middle of August.

NEW ORLEANS, March 16. Marshall, Texas, March 9.—The sale of the Pacific Railroad is postponed. The old company is gaining confidence. The new company has been attached for debts.

LEAVENWORTH, March 16. In the case of Doy and son who were abducted from Missouri, charged with aiding in the escape of slaves, a change of venue has been granted and the trial transferred to St. Joseph.

Accounts have been received from the gold mines to the 12th of February and continue flattering. The rush toward Pike's Peak has fairly commenced. Seven large companies left here yesterday. Emigrants arrive here daily by hundreds.

WASHINGTON, March 16. The Secretary of the Treasury has approved the following grants of public lands under acts of Congress. For the Dubuque and Pacific railroad and branch 1,152,139 acres; Iowa Central Air Line railroad 631,139 acres; Mississippi and Missouri railroad 353,431 acres, an aggregate of 2,136,709 acres; also to the Alabama and Florida railroad in Alabama, to the State and company 394,523 acres.

ASPINWALL, March 4. Mr. T. S. Bell, lately appointed U. S. Commercial Agent to San Juan del Norte, arrived here on the Star of the West. Mr. Bell is well known here as having been one of those engaged a year ago in the foolish Kinney filibustering expedition on San Juan. The necks of the party were saved, on that occasion, by Commander Kennedy, of the Jamestown, who humanely interceded for them and sent them to Aspinwall.

Mr. Bell owes his appointment, not to the fact of his having been a filibuster, but to his being the nephew of Senator Bell, of Texas, and also of Extra Billy Smith, of Virginia.

Is it any wonder that the United States should be considered a nation of filibusters by the Nicaraguans, and that they should be averse to approve the Cass-Yrissari treaty when such men are sent among them to represent us? In Nicaragua we have a Minister who is scarcely ever in condition to attend to business—a Consul and a Commercial Agent. These constitute our whole diplomatic and semi diplomatic force in that country. Consul Priest, at San Juan del Sur, has for years kept a grog shop there. His office is in one end of his own hotel, and the grog shop and gambling room in the other. At least such was the case during the Walker invasion.

What a noble representation! and this, too, in a country to which England sends such a man as Sir William Gore Ouseley, and to which France is about to send one of her most astute and well-bred diplomatists and gentlemen.

J. L. C. NEW YORK, March 17. The dead body of Mike Walsh, ex member of Congress, was found in the area of a building on Eighth Avenue this morning. He had been robbed and then murdered.

Another version of the affair, which is probably correct, reports that the deceased fell into the area while intoxicated, and that his death was caused by breaking his neck. His sudden death has caused much excitement among the Democracy.

MEMPHIS, March 17. The crevasse at Talula, 65 miles above Vicksburg, on Wednesday night destroyed the plantation of E. North, and flooded the country.

RELIGIOUS RIOT IN INDIA.—Late London papers give the following account of a late religious riot in India:

"Madras has been the scene of a religious riot, in which numbers of lives have been unnecessarily sacrificed. Nowhere in India is there so large a Christian population as at Tinnevely. Nowhere is the Hindoo population more fanatical. The authorities, always desirous of avoiding contention between the Idolators and Christians, have been accustomed to give in to the prejudices of the Brahmins. Christians funeral processions have usually been prohibited from passing in front of the pagodas and even in streets occupied by high caste Hindoos.—Such pretensions had never been listened to in Calcutta, where Christian funerals pass daily without remark. In the present instance, a Christian funeral procession passed in front of the great Tinnevely pagoda. The Brahmins, trusting to long continued tolerance on the part of the authorities, attempted to prevent the passage of the funeral. A row ensued; the Christians were stoned by the Brahmins, and it became necessary to send for a force to restore order. Unfortunately, three companies of Sepoys were brought in from Palamcottah, and fire arms were used. The result was that 39 persons in the crowd were killed."

DEATH FROM THE EXTRACTION OF A TOOTH.—Mrs. Margaret Weston, living on Sycamore street, had a tooth extracted by a bungling dentist on Sixth street, who tore out a portion of her jaw while under the influence of chloroform. The injury done her was serious, and she suffered greatly therefrom. Soon after she caught cold, and her face and head swelled tremendously, and she could neither eat nor sleep with any degree of comfort. Thus she continued until a few days ago, when, exhausted by abstinence and pain, she breathed her last. The verdict of a Coroner's jury should be: "Killed by a dentist, for to him and his ignorance may be attributed her decease."—*Cin. Gaz.*

Judge Vespasian Ellis died in Washington city on the 14th inst. He formerly represented the country abroad, and was long connected with the press of the country. He was the editor of the American Organ at Washington until that paper ceased two or three years since.

THE ROCK.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "MOAT GRANGE."

[CONTINUED.]

VII. Twelve months went by, and Thomas Kage was ready to resign his executorship; some law details had thus protracted the settlement. The deed of release was forwarded for Mrs. Canterbury and to other parties to sign, and Mr. Kage also left London for the Rock; there was no legal necessity for his presence there but he chose to spare the time for the journey. The terminus was two miles distant from the Rock, and upon looking for the omnibus which usually met the train, Mr. Kage ran against Mr. Carlton.

"Don't get into that jolting omnibus," cried the warm-hearted squire, "let me drive you in my pony gig; there's room for you and your portmanteau too. I came to look after a parcel of books, and it has not come."

They were soon bowling along the road, Mr. Carlton full of gossip, as he loved to be. In relating some news, he mentioned the name of Captain Dawkes.

"What, is he here—here still?" exclaimed Thomas Kage, in surprise.

"Do you know him?" returned Mr. Carlton.

"A little."

"He is nothing of a sportsman; he is the greatest mule in the field you ever saw; he is fonder of in-door sports than out-door ones," continued Mr. Carlton significantly. "I fancy he is likely to become a relation of yours."

"A relation of mine? In what way?"

"Rumor goes that he will marry Mrs. Canterbury."

"Ridiculous!" involuntarily burst from Thomas Kage.

"I suppose she does not think so. He is a good looking blade, and is heir to a large fortune—as much as hers, they say."

"Who says it?" quietly asked Mr. Kage.

"Who? I don't know. Everybody; he says it himself."

"How has he become intimate with Mrs. Canterbury?"

"Through living in the neighborhood. He has been here a long while; ever since Mr. Canterbury's death, it seems to me."

"How and where does he live?" questioned Mr. Kage, who appeared to be absorbed in what he heard.

"First of all, he was at the inn, and then he removed to a little furnished box there was to let, and had his sister down. He took it from month to month, at starting, but now he has it by the twelve month."

"And is intimate at Mrs. Canterbury's?"

"Uncommonly intimate. Is at the Rock every day of his life. Folks say that Mrs. Kage went up there and took her daughter to task about it; but Mrs. Canterbury is her own mistress, and will do as she likes."

"I thought Mrs. Kage was living at the Rock. It was agreed that she should, as Caro—as her daughter was young."

"Ay, there was something of the sort arranged; Mrs. Kage's proposal, I believe; but it did not last long; nobody thought it would, and she went back to her own home. She assumed too much domestic control, and Mrs. Canterbury would not put up with it. Mrs. Canterbury visits a great deal, and is extremely popular in the county."

"In spite of the unjust will."

"She and Mrs. Kage got a deal of blame at the time, but people seem to have forgotten it now."

"Ah," mused Thomas Kage, "time is the great obliterator of human actions, whether they be evil or good."

When they reached the Rock, Mr. Carlton halted, and shouted for the keeper to open the lodge gates. She came running out.

"I will walk up to the house," said Mr. Kage.

"I should prefer it, for my legs are cramped. Thank you for bringing me."

He took out his portmanteau, and carried it inside the lodge, observing that he would dispatch a servant for it. The woman took it in her hand to test its weight.

"It's not heavy, sir. My boy can run up with it at once."

"Very well," replied Mr. Kage.

He was close at the house when he heard the sound of voices at a distance, and on looking to the spot, he saw a gentleman playing with a child; now running with him, now tossing him, now carrying him on his shoulder. It was growing dusk, but Thomas Kage had no difficulty in recognising Mr. Dawkes, and the child was the young heir to the Rock.

Mrs. Canterbury was alone when he entered; she had just come down, attired for dinner. Her weeds were discarded, and she wore a black lace dress, and a shower of ringlets, sunny and luxuriant as in former days. Her emotion at the sight of her visitor was vivid, and he could not fail to observe it.

"Oh, Thomas! this is, indeed, unexpected."

"I wrote you word last week I should be coming."

"But you did not say when. And I never thought you meant so soon."

"Am I too soon, Caroline?"

"Oh, no, no; my surprise is all gladness. Have you come from London to-day?"

"I will answer many questions as you like, when I have taken off some of this traveling dust; but I had better do it first, for it must be close upon your dinner hour."

Mrs. Canterbury caused him to be shown to his room, observing that her mother and a friend would dine with them. They were present when he descended; Mrs. Kage and Mr. Dawkes. Dinner was waiting, and they went in. Mrs. Canterbury took the head of her table, and he, Mr. Kage, the opposite place.

"You have been making a long stay in this neighborhood," observed Mr. Kage to the Captain.

"I like it," he replied. "I think I shall settle here."

After dinner the child came in, little Thomas Canterbury. He was two gentle to be a spoilt child, but his mother seemed wrapt in him. Mr. Dawkes appeared equally wrapt; he took the boy on his knee, fed him with sweet things, kissed him and fondled him; and this continued until the ladies retired and took the child with them. As soon as they were gone, Captain Dawkes took out his pocket book and laid a five pound note by the side of Mr. Kage.

"Mr. Kage, I owe you a thousand apologies for not having repaid you before. When I heard you were likely to come here, I felt delighted at the opportunity to relieve myself from debt."

"You might have sent it," observed Mr. Kage.

"I know I might; I was always going to do so, but negligence is my failing. Thanks for the loan."

"Have things got straight with you?"

"Oh, quite so. My ancient relative relented, and came down like a brick."

It was not altogether a merry evening. Thomas Kage was silent and thoughtful, the ex Captain evidently constrained, and Mrs. Kage shot keen glances from her eyes at both, under cover of the tops of her essence bottles. Mrs. Canterbury alone was in an overflow of spirits. By ten o'clock, the two dinner guests had left, and Mrs. Canterbury and her cousin were left alone. She caused the chess table to be brought forward, and set out the men.

"You will play, Tom, will you not?"

He drew up his chair and commenced the game. In five minutes Mrs. Canterbury had checkmated him. He began to put the pieces up.

"But will you not play again?" she asked.

"Not to night my thoughts are elsewhere."

He finished his employment, pushed the table back, and dropped into a musing attitude.—Mrs. Canterbury glanced at him as she played with the trinkets that were hanging from her chain.

"Is anything the matter, Thomas?"

"You have been as solemn as a judge all the evening."

"Is it true," he abruptly said, "that you are likely to marry Dawkes?"

"My goodness! what put that in your head?"

"Is it true, Caroline?" he more sadly repeated.

"No, it is not. But why can't people keep their mischief making tongues to themselves?"

He did not put absolute faith in her denial. "It was imprudent, Caroline, to allow a stranger of whom you know nothing, to become so intimate with me."

"Mamma has been setting you on to say this!"

He shook his head. "Let me tell you what I know of Dawkes. He has been a wild, gay man, up to his ears in debt and embarrassment; when he came to this neighborhood it was to be safe from his creditors. Now, Caroline, reflect for one moment—to such a man as a wife, what a temptation a fortune like yours must hold out!"

"Few men have been exempt from embarrassment at some time or other of their lives," observed Mrs. Canterbury. "Captain Dawkes having been in debt ought not to tell against him, now he is free from it."

"How do you know he is free from it?"

"Of course he is. He lives here openly, and seems to have plenty of money."

"He may have paid his debts; he may have plenty of money now; I do not know that it is not so, and you do not know that it is. But

"What a shame it is people can't mind their own business!" interrupted Mrs. Canterbury.—"They interfere with me in the most unwarrantable manner; they say I visit too much, and they say I left off my ugly widow's cap too soon—I wore them twelve months, and they were spoiling my hair! And now they have been talking to you about Captain Dawkes."

"I was about to observe that the tastes and pursuits of Captain Dawkes—I have seen something of them—are not calculated to bring happiness to a wife, Caroline."

She smiled; a bright laughing smile. Mr. Kage was vexed; he thought it a derisive one.

"Caroline, I speak for your sake only, your happiness."

"Then you really do care for my happiness?"

"I have never cared for any one's so much in life. You knew it once, Caroline."

Mrs. Canterbury had risen and was standing with her elbow on the mantelpiece, and the red glow of the fire deepened to crimson the blushes on her cheeks. Or had they deepened of themselves? any way, they were rich and beautiful. Thomas Kage thought so as he stood close to her, far too innocent and beautiful to be thrown away on Barnaby Dawkes.

"I thought it once," she hesitatingly said, "until

"Until when?"

"Until I married. But it was all over then."

"Not so; I am anxious for it still, and I wish you would let me try and guide you to it."

"How would you begin?" she merrily said.

"First of all, you should break off the intimacy with Dawkes.—How was it brought about?" he interrupted himself to ask.

"It began by his taking a fancy for my boy.—He made acquaintance with him and his nurse in their walks, and the child grew so attached to him, nothing was ever like it. How could I help being civil to one who is so fond of my child?"

"Let there be truth between us, Caroline," he interrupted, in a pained tone.

"I am telling you truth; I will tell you. I care nothing for Captain Dawkes, and I only like him because he loves the boy. But he has grown to like me in a different way," she added, and last week he asked me to become his wife."

"What was your answer?"

"That I would not; and it was a very decided would not," admitting no hope. "But he still comes here. It would kill him to separate from the child, he said; whether he still hopes to make an impression on me, in his look out, I don't know, and don't care."

"Then you do not love him, Caroline?"

"No; it is not to him that my love is given."

"That tone, Caroline, would almost imply that it is given elsewhere. Is it so?"

The flush of crimson in her face was so great that she turned it from him. He took her hand and held it between his.

"Would you have me go through this life alone?" she sadly asked. "Why should I not marry again? Some mothers call girls at my age too young for wives. I am not three and twenty."

"My dear, I hope you will marry again; my only anxiety is that you should marry for happiness. What is the matter?"

Mrs. Canterbury had burst into tears. "It is such a lonely life," she whispered; "it has been so lonely all along. I married—you know about it, that I did not care for him—and I found I had grasped the shadow and lost the substance: I tried to carry it off to others and be gay, but there was the aching void ever in my heart.—Since I have been free, it has been the same: no real happiness; nothing but a yearning after what I have not. Sometimes hope springs up and pictures a bright future: but it flies away again. I have never," she continued, raising her eyes for a moment, "breathed aught of these, my feelings, to man or woman: I could not to any one but you."

"Caroline, you are indulging a love-dream!—Who is its object?"

She was trembling excessively; he could feel that, as he held her hand, which he had not attempted to remove. Alone with him in that quiet evening hour, her heart, full of romance and sentiment, Caroline Canterbury may be forgiven if she betrayed herself. Though she had heartlessly rejected Thomas Kage to marry a rich man, she had loved him passionately then, and she loved him passionately still.

"Who is it, Caroline?"

"Do not ask me."

"Who is it, Caroline?"

"Need you ask me?"

No he need not, for in that same moment the scales fell from his own eyes. Her agitated tone, her downcast look, told him what he had certainly not had his thoughts pointed to. He dropped her hand, and went and leaned his own elbow on the mantelpiece, with a flush as rosy as hers.

"Caroline," he whispered; breaking a long silence, "was this your dream?"

She was vexed at having betrayed her feelings, and sobbed hysterically. He waited.

"It cannot be," he continued to whisper, when calmness came to her. "Whether it might have been, whether the old feelings might have been renewed between us, I have never allowed myself to ask. There is an insuperable barrier."

"In my having left you to marry Mr. Canterbury."

"Mr. Canterbury is gone and has left you free. The barrier has in his unjust will, in your having inherited, and my being its executor."

"I do not understand you," she faintly said.

"Our attachment was known to some. Were I to make you my wife now who but would say it was a work of complicity, plauded between us: the money bequeathed to you, and I was the executor! Caroline, were you dear to me as formerly, as perhaps you might become again, I would die of heart break rather than marry your money, and so sacrifice my good name."

Her face and lips had turned of a stony white, and her heart felt turning to stone within her.

"Answer me one thing," she said: "when you urged me to induce Mr. Canterbury to make a more equitable will, and leave me less, was this your motive?"

"No! he earnestly answered, 'I spoke only from a love of justice—I wished you to be just, I wished you to retain the good opinion of men. From the day of your marriage with Mr. Canterbury, I have never thought of you but as lost to me; and I schooled my heart to bear.'

Recollection, remorse, grief were telling upon her. She shook as she stood, and turned to lay hold of something by which to steady herself.—He could but walk across the rug to support her. "I suffered then as you are doing now," he whispered.

"Let me make it up to you!" she returned, heading little what she said in her despair—let us make it up to each other. You do care for me still—I have riches—I have my love—let me make it up to you."

"It is those riches that make it impossible.—Caroline do not tempt me; it can never be."

"Then you reject me!" she bitterly exclaimed.

"As a wife; I have no other alternative. But, Caroline, we can be dear to each other still—as brother and sister."

"Brother and sister? brother and sister?" she wailed; "that is not a tie to satisfy the void of an aching heart."

"Caroline, my darling sister, you must school your heart," he whispered. "I had to do it—I have